Special reward to the winning Indian Cricket Team

396 SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to give special reward to the Indian Cricket team on their grant feat of winning trophies in one day and test matches series in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor, and

(c) whether similar rewards will be given for other games such as hockey, football, tennis, table tennis, volley ball etc ?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

(c) Under the 'Scheme, relating to Awards', winners of medals in international sports events and their coaches are given special cash awards in the disciplines included in the Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games, besides that of chess. Games like hockey, football, tennis and volleyball are among the eligible disciplines.

Pension scheme for asian Games athletes

397 SHRI S M LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any pension scheme for athletes who have participated in Asian Games over the years,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) the criteria fixed for such athletes to qualify for the pension, and

(d) the details of such pension and benefits presently in operation for athletes who had won medals at diverse Asian Games for the country?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) to (d) Under the scheme of 'Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons', winners of Asian Games are entitled to life pension from the age of 30 years @ Rs. 350/-p.m. to gold medalists and @ Rs. 3000/- for silver and bronze medalists However, mere participation in Asian Games does not qualify a sportsperson for pension under the scheme

requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing,

(xv) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries,

(xvi) 100% Foreign Direct Investment permitted through automatic route in the textile sector with certain exceptions; and

(xvii) Refund of taxes and duties on exports through drawback route

Dismantled quota system for textiles

394 SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) how Government propose to bring reforms in textile sector to grab the dismantled quota system which will become operational from 2005,

(b) what measures Government have taken or porpose to take to increase exports to the level of $ 25-30 billion from the present $ 12 billion by 2013;

(c) whether Government propose to dereserve knitted and hosiery sectors from the small scale sector as a part of this; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) To strengthen domestic textile industry for meeting the growing global competition, the following important announcements has been made in the Union Budget 2004-05·

- Except for mandatory excise duty on polyester filament yarn including texturised yarn, synthetic and artificial fibres and synthetic and artificial filament yarns, the whole value addition chain has been given excise exemption option.
- Additional Excise Duty on Textiles and Textile Articles (AT&T) and Additional Excise Duty (Goods of Special Importance) Act have been abolished.
- Basic customs duty on various textile machinery and spare parts has been reduced to 5%.